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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 30, 1980

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ACTION
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The Honorable
Edmund S. Muskie
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed are copies of S.Con.Res. 133, "Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to the fulfillment by the Government of the Republic of Korea of its stated commitments to the democratization of the Republic of Korea and with respect to the death sentence imposed upon Kim Dae Jung and the harsh sentences imposed upon his twenty-three codefendants," introduced by Senator Tsongas et al on September 30, 1980.

The Committee would appreciate receiving coordinated Executive Branch comments on this concurrent resolution at an early date.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Frank Church
Chairman

Enclosures

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY HT DATE 8/18/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE (M)
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
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98TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 133

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to the fulfillment by the Government of the Republic of Korea of its stated commitments to the democratization of the Republic of Korea and with respect to the death sentence imposed upon Kim Dae Jung and the harsh sentences imposed upon his twenty-three codefendants.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 30 (legislative day, JUNE 12), 1980

Mr. TSONGAS (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. CRANSTON) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to the fulfillment by the Government of the Republic of Korea of its stated commitments to the democratization of the Republic of Korea and with respect to the death sentence imposed upon Kim Dae Jung and the harsh sentences imposed upon his twenty-three codefendants.

Whereas the United States has consistently supported the Republic of Korea, not only with our national treasure but also with the lives of American soldiers, in order to establish and protect a nation in which democracy and freedom could flourish;

Whereas today the United States contributes to the defense and social welfare of the Republic of Korea;

Whereas the present leaders of that country have shown a disregard for democratic processes and for the civil rights of its citizens;

Whereas judicial proceedings in the Republic of Korea in the case of Kim Dae Jung and thirty-four other intellectual, political, and religious leaders, have led to a sentence of death for Mr. Kim and harsh prison sentences for the others;

Whereas Kim Dae Jung and the others were tried in a manner which has been characterized by the international legal community as lacking recognized standards of fairness;

Whereas if the sentence of execution of Kim Dae Jung and harsh sentences of other codefendants are carried out, it will contribute to the alienation of the Government from the people of the Republic of Korea and will make it increasingly difficult to justify to the American people the continuation of a close relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That (a) it is the sense of the Congress that the President should urge the Government of the Republic of Korea—

(1) to fulfill its stated commitments to the democratization of the political life of South Korea; and

(2) to reconsider the process by which Kim Dae Jung and other critics of the Government have been tried and convicted.

(b) The Congress hereby expresses its intention, if the Government of the Republic of Korea carries out these harsh sentences, to review the present terms of the relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President, with the request that he further transmit a copy to the Government of the Republic of Korea.

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